

REMARKS

1. Present Status of Patent Application

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action of May 30, 2008. Claims 7, 12, 14, 17, 21, 24, and 26 have been amended and claims 13 & 18-20 have been canceled in the present response. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-17, and 21-26 are currently pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

2. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge that claims 1-4 and 6 have been indicated to be allowed in the outstanding office action. Further, claims 13 and 20 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In that it is believed that every rejection and objection has been overcome in the present response, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

3. Response to Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-12, 14-19, and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Yoakum* (U.S. Patent No. 7,139,797).

a. Claims 7-13

Independent claim 7 has been rewritten to include the features of allowable claim 13. Accordingly, independent claim 7 and dependent claims 8-12 are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 13 is canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection to the claims is rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the

canceled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

b. Claims 14-16

As provided in independent claim 14, Applicants claim:

A communications system on a computer, comprising:

means for providing a first communication suite having a plurality of communications accounts of a first user for a first communications service on the computer and at least one communications account of the first user for a second communications service on the computer;

means for recognizing that one of the plurality of communications accounts of the first user for the first communications service is being actively utilized on the computer; and

means for directing the second communications service to assume an active state of service on the computer for the first user after recognizing that one of the plurality of communications accounts of the first user is being actively utilized on the computer, wherein for an active state of service, the communications services of the first communication suite operate at a first level of service on the computer and for an inactive state of service, the communications services operate at a second level of service on the computer that provides reduced functionality than the first level of service,

wherein the second communications service comprises one of an email service, an instant messaging service, a video conferencing service, and an Internet call waiting service that is different than the first communication service.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14 is allowable for at least the reason that *Yoakum* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least “means for directing the second communications service to assume an active state of service on the computer for the first user after recognizing that one of the plurality of communications accounts of the first user is being actively utilized on the computer, wherein for an active state of service, the communications services of the first communication suite operate at a first level of service on the computer and for an inactive state of service, the communications services operate at a second level of service on the computer that provides reduced functionality than the first level of service, wherein the second communications service comprises one of an email

service, an instant messaging service, a video conferencing service, and an Internet call waiting service that is different than the first communication service," as emphasized above.

For example, *Yoakum* describes a process for detecting a degree of user participation in a communication session and for using this participation information to generate presence information which may indicate whether the user can be interrupted to accept other communications. See col. 2, lines 30-56. Accordingly, *Yoakum* describes that devices that support communications with the user may be evaluated in order to determine the presence information for the user. See cols. 3-4, lines 64-23. Further, *Yoakum* describes that a user may designate rules to control how presence information is determined. In a first example, a user's presence information is determined to be "available" if the user's office PC is in use and the office telephone is on-hook. In a second example, the user's presence information is determined to be "unavailable" if the user's office PC is in use and the office telephone is off-hook. See col. 12, lines 2-22.

Yoakum further describes that "[t]he presence system 20 will then process the state information and communication capabilities from all associated to create the presence information for the user and send a NOTIFY message, if necessary, to the proxy server 28 to provide the updated presence information" to presence applications of subscribers. Col. 16, lines 58-67. As such, *Yoakum* does not disclose "means for directing the second communications service to assume an active state of service on the computer for the first user after recognizing that one of the plurality of communications accounts of the first user is being actively utilized on the computer, wherein for an active state of service, the communications services of the first communication suite operate at a first level of service on the computer and for an inactive state of service, the communications services operate at a second level of service on the computer that provides reduced functionality than the first level of service, wherein the second communications service comprises one of an email service, an instant messaging service, a video conferencing service, and an Internet call waiting service that is different than the first communication service," as recited in claim 14.

Rather, *Yoakum* discloses that subscribers are provided presence information for a user that is determined based upon devices that support communications for the user and the user's participation in a communication session across multiple computing or communication devices. *Yoakum* does not disclose that a communications services on a computer is directed to a state of service being utilized by another communications service on the computer for a user. For at least these reasons, *Yoakum* does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 14, and the rejection of claim 14 should be withdrawn.

Since claims 15-16 depend from and includes the features of claim 14 and recite additional features, claims 15-16 are allowable as a matter of law over the cited art of record.

c. Claims 17-20

Independent claim 17 has been rewritten to include the features of allowable claim 20. Accordingly, independent claim 17 is allowable over the cited art.

Claims 18-20 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection to the claims is rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

d. Claims 21-23

As provided in independent claim 21, Applicants claim:

A method for integrating communications services on a computer, comprising:

providing a first association of a plurality of first communications accounts for a first communications service on the computer;

providing a second association of a plurality of second communications accounts for a second communications service on the computer;

detecting on the computer if a particular user is actively utilizing one of the first communications accounts in the first association;

upon detection, initiating an active state of service on the computer for each first communications account in the first association; and

upon detection, initiating an inactive state of service on the computer for each second communications account in the second association, wherein for an active state of service, the communications services of the first communications suite operate at a first level of service on the computer and for an inactive state of service, the communications services operate at a second level of service on the computer that provides reduced functionality than the first level of service,

wherein the second communications service comprises one of an email service, an instant messaging service, a video conferencing service, and an Internet call waiting service that is different than the first communication service.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 21 is allowable for at least the reason that *Yoakum* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least "detecting on the computer if a particular user is actively utilizing one of the first communications accounts in the first association; upon detection, initiating an active state of service on the computer for each first communications account in the first association; and upon detection, initiating an inactive state of service on the computer for each second communications account in the second association, wherein for an active state of service, the communications services of the first communications suite operate at a first level of service on the computer and for an inactive state of service, the communications services operate at a second level of service on the computer that provides reduced functionality than the first level of service, wherein the second communications service comprises one of an email service, an instant messaging service, a video conferencing service, and an Internet call waiting service that is different than the first communication service," as emphasized above.

For example, *Yoakum* describes a process for detecting a degree of user participation in a communication session and for using this participation information to generate presence information which may indicate whether the user can be interrupted to accept other communications. See col. 2, lines 30-56. Accordingly, *Yoakum* describes that devices that support communications with the user may be evaluated in

order to determine the presence information for the user. See cols. 3-4, lines 64-23. Further, *Yoakum* describes that a user may designate rules to control how presence information is determined. In a first example, a user's presence information is determined to be "available" if the user's office PC is in use and the office telephone is on-hook. In a second example, the user's presence information is determined to be "unavailable" if the user's office PC is in use and the office telephone is off-hook. See col. 12, lines 2-22.

Yoakum further describes that "[t]he presence system 20 will then process the state information and communication capabilities from all associated to create the presence information for the user and send a NOTIFY message, if necessary, to the proxy server 28 to provide the updated presence information" to presence applications of subscribers. Col. 16, lines 58-67. As such, *Yoakum* does not disclose "detecting on the computer if a particular user is actively utilizing one of the first communications accounts in the first association; upon detection, initiating an active state of service on the computer for each first communications account in the first association; and upon detection, initiating an inactive state of service on the computer for each second communications account in the second association, wherein for an active state of service, the communications services of the first communications suite operate at a first level of service on the computer and for an inactive state of service, the communications services operate at a second level of service on the computer that provides reduced functionality than the first level of service, wherein the second communications service comprises one of an email service, an instant messaging service, a video conferencing service, and an Internet call waiting service that is different than the first communication service," as recited in claim 21. For at least these reasons, *Yoakum* does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 21, and the rejection of claim 21 should be withdrawn.

Since claims 22-23 depend from and include the features of claim 21 and recite additional features, claims 22-23 are allowable as a matter of law over the cited art of record.

e. Claim 24

As provided in independent claim 24, Applicants claim:

A communications method on a computer, comprising:

providing a first communication suite having a plurality of communications accounts of a first user for a first communications service on the computer and at least one communications account of the first user for the second communications service on the computer;

recognizing that one of the plurality of communications accounts of the first user for the first communications service is being actively utilized on the computer; and

directing the second communications service to assume an active state of service on the computer for the first user after the recognizing step, wherein for an active state of service, the communications services of the first communications suite operate at a first level of service on the computer and for an inactive state of service, the communications services operate at a second level of service on the computer that provides reduced functionality than the first level of service, the first communications service and the second communications service being able to assume either an active or inactive state,

wherein the second communications service comprises one of an email service, an instant messaging service, a video conferencing service, and an Internet call waiting service that is different than the first communication service.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 24 is allowable for at least the reason that *Yoakum* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least "directing the second communications service to assume an active state of service on the computer for the first user after the recognizing step, wherein for an active state of service, the communications services of the first communications suite operate at a first level of service on the computer and for an inactive state of service, the communications services operate at a second level of service on the computer that provides reduced functionality than the first level of service, the first communications service and the second communications service being able to assume either an active or inactive state, wherein the second communications service comprises one of an email service, an instant messaging service, a video conferencing service, and an Internet call waiting service that is different than the first communication service," as emphasized above.

For example, *Yoakum* describes a process for detecting a degree of user participation in a communication session and for using this participation information to generate presence information which may indicate whether the user can be interrupted to accept other communications. See col. 2, lines 30-56. Accordingly, *Yoakum* describes that devices that support communications with the user may be evaluated in order to determine the presence information for the user. See cols. 3-4, lines 64-23. Further, *Yoakum* describes that a user may designate rules to control how presence information is determined. In a first example, a user's presence information is determined to be "available" if the user's office PC is in use and the office telephone is on-hook. In a second example, the user's presence information is determined to be "unavailable" if the user's office PC is in use and the office telephone is off-hook. See col. 12, lines 2-22.

Yoakum further describes that "[t]he presence system 20 will then process the state information and communication capabilities from all associated to create the presence information for the user and send a NOTIFY message, if necessary, to the proxy server 28 to provide the updated presence information" to presence applications of subscribers. Col. 16, lines 58-67. As such, *Yoakum* does not disclose "directing the second communications service to assume an active state of service on the computer for the first user after the recognizing step, wherein for an active state of service, the communications services of the first communications suite operate at a first level of service on the computer and for an inactive state of service, the communications services operate at a second level of service on the computer that provides reduced functionality than the first level of service, the first communications service and the second communications service being able to assume either an active or inactive state, wherein the second communications service comprises one of an email service, an instant messaging service, a video conferencing service, and an Internet call waiting service that is different than the first communication service," as recited in claim 24.

Accordingly, *Yoakum* does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 24, and the rejection of claim 24 should be withdrawn. Since claims 25-26 depend from and include the features of claim 24 and recite additional features, claims 25-26 are allowable as a matter of law over the cited art of record.

CONCLUSION

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known for at least the specific and particular reason that the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. In addition, Applicants reserve the right to address any comments made in the Office Action that were not specifically addressed herein. Thus, such comments should not be deemed admitted by the Applicants. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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